

Dear Lake County Residents:

I would like to provide an update on a countywide initiative that is focused on improving health and quality of life in Lake County. The Lake County Health Department and many local public health system partners throughout Lake County have been implementing a community health assessment and improvement process called MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships). The MAPP Steering Committee represents many organizations and agencies throughout Lake County, including:

- Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County
- Lake County Community Foundation
- Youth Build Lake County
- Lake County Regional Office of Education
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
- Sierra Club
- Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
- Lake County Audubon Society
- Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital
- Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital
- Abbott Laboratories
- Lake County United, Voices for Illinois Children

Over the past year or so, the following phases of the MAPP process have been completed:

Phase 1 was “Organizing for Success/Partnership Development.” Within this phase, the planning process was initiated and planning partnerships began to be developed.

Phase 2 was “Visioning.” Within this phase, initial steps were taken to develop a shared community vision and common values.

Phase 3 was “The Four MAPP Assessments.” These assessments all fit together in a complementary way to provide a data driven approach to understanding the health and quality of life of the people of Lake County. The four assessments were:

- Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) – answers the questions “How healthy are the residents of Lake County?” and “What does the health status of the communities of Lake County look like?”
- Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) – answers the questions “What is important to our community regarding health and quality of life?”, “How is quality of life perceived in our community?”, and “What assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?”
- Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) – answers the questions “What are the components, activities, competencies, and capacities of our local public health system?” and “How are the 10 Essential Public Health Services being provided to our community?”
- Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) – answers the questions “What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?” and “What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?”

All four of these assessments have been completed, with much community partnership and input. The results of each of the assessments have been recorded in four assessment reports. These reports can be found on the Lake County MAPP web page at: <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Health/Pages/MAPP%20Project.aspx>

Phase 4 was “Identifying Strategic Issues.” Within this phase, the findings of the four MAPP assessments were analyzed and discussed by the Steering Committee. Through this data driven approach, cross cutting themes were identified across the four assessments. At this point, strategic priorities began to emerge. Through collaborative discussion and an in depth look at assets and barriers related to each of the potential strategic priorities, the Steering Committee worked their way to four final strategic priorities. These strategic priorities are:

- Reduction of Health Disparities/Increase in Health Equity

- Adequate and Diverse Public Health System Workforce
- Prevention/Access to Prevention and Wellness
- Coordination of Care: Access to a Medical Home and Behavioral Health;
Coordinated Network of Health and Human Services

The completion of these first four phases of the MAPP process is a great accomplishment. But the unfolding of the next phases will be vitally important to the improvement of the health of the people of Lake County.

Phase 5 will be “Formulating Goals and Strategies.” Within this phase, **goals** and **strategies** will be developed for each of the strategic priorities identified in Phase 4.

- **Goals** set a common direction and understanding of the anticipated end result.
- **Strategies** communicate how the community will move in that direction. Together, goals and strategies provide a connection between the current reality (what the public health system and the community’s health looks like now) and the vision (what the public health system and community’s health will look like in the future). **The Lake County MAPP Vision Statement is: Achieving the highest level of health for all in Lake County.** In providing a focus for future action, strategies lead to coordinated action by addressing the complexity of seemingly complicated problems. The emphasis on action also serves a critical role in linking planning to implementation.

Phase 6 (the final phase) will be “The Ongoing Work of the **Action Cycle**.” Within this phase, the following components will build upon each other in a continuous and interactive manner:

- **Planning** – determining what will be done, who will do it, and how it will be done.
- **Implementation** – carrying out the activities identified in the planning stage.
- **Evaluation** – determining what has been accomplished.

Within **Phase 5** and **Phase 6**, four **Action Teams** will be formed, one Action Team for each of the four strategic priorities listed above (in Phase 4). The Action Teams will be comprised of various community partners, organizations, and agencies throughout Lake County and will further expand the community-driven nature of the MAPP process.

We will have more updates to share, moving forward. But for now, much exciting progress has been made. We are seeing some very important steps along the road toward the MAPP Vision for Lake County: “Achieving the highest level of health for all in Lake County.”

Sincerely,

Irene Pierce
Executive Director
Lake County Health Department/
Community Health Center